



Rafael Aguilera, Director

Verde Group

Rafael Aguilera is a trailblazer for Latinos seeking climate justice. As one of the lead advocates of California's landmark climate bill, AB 32 (Nuñez), Rafael helped negotiate the first economy-wide carbon cap in the world with community and public health protections, provisions that call for an equitable share of investments in disadvantaged communities, and a standing environmental justice advisory committee. Working on this top priority issue for a leading national environmental non-profit, Rafael was able to persuade legislators and community groups that global warming was real, and that it was time for California to take action.

Due to popular demand, Rafael co-founded the Verde Group in 2007 and began offering his consulting and lobbying services to progressive non-profits who shared his vision of starting a clean energy revolution in California. Rafael has worked on behalf of the two largest and most prominent regional environmental coalitions in California (Central Valley and LA), climate and clean energy advocacy non-profits, as well as community-based social justice organizations. He has focused on three broad areas of policy advocacy: 1) reducing toxic impacts to EJ communities from incinerators, power plants, refineries, and goods movement-related diesel emissions; 2) promoting public and private investment in "Green Assets" for disadvantaged communities such as urban parks, low-income energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, and localized economies; 3) popularizing the clean energy revolution amongst Latinos and people of color through the promotion of "green" cultural and ecological values, grassroots community activism, and applied ecological economics.